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# PEACHES and PEACH GROWING

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Union Orchard and Nursery Co.  
B. F. MASON, Proprietor  
MARTINSVILLE, INDIANA



80 TO A BUSHEL

Copyright 1914 by B. F. Mason.

## A Few Words on the Subject of PEACHES and PEACH GROWING

**I**N peach culture there is a poetical side and a practical side. There is beauty and there is utility. But the practical side comes in for consideration first. But how wonderfully easy it all is. Mother Earth reaches out to us her indulgent arms, loaded with abundance, with smiles upon her rugged face. But we must stay close to Nature. Our soil and surroundings must be reduced to original conditions. Think of the time when the virgin soil, full of humus, potash and **peaches**, shot the young peach tree with its spreading branches quickly upward and almost as quickly bloomed and bent to our fore-parents her fragrant boughs loaded with perfect fruit. The same sun still shines upon us and the same breezes shake the leaves as did then. But the "bugs" have come, and the diseases too, and the "bug-bears" too, and they are the worst of all for they never came at all, and we only imagine them, and the climate may have changed some in position. So we remove the bugs and chase away the diseases with the spray pump, and we keep abreast of the progress in Horticulture by discarding the old and effete varieties and planting the new, the harder and the good and the TESTED of the new generation of peaches. This is why we show you the pictures of the Shippers' Late Red peach trees in this little booklet and show you how EASY it is to grow this wonderful fruit.

### LOCATION

Our location is most favorable for growing the best possible peach trees. The soil is such as produces the best root system, matures the trees early, and forms as perfect a peach tree as can be grown.

Martinsville has three R. R. and Freight Lines, three Express Companies and is in easy access by freight and express with all parts of the world.

### SHIPPING

We ship to every state and territory in the Union and to foreign countries, including England, France, Italy, Australia, etc., and guarantee safe arrival in good condition. Packing is done in the most perfect and thorough manner, and shipments to long distances are as safe as if you lived in an adjoining county. We have over 1200 patrons in our home county who have planted the Shippers' Late Red peach trees.

### THE SHIPPERS' LATE RED PEACH

While we make a specialty of growing the Shippers' Late Red peach trees, because it is the most valuable of all peaches, and can

not be obtained except from us, the originator, we grow all the leading varieties of peach trees, in large quantities, and can supply them in car lots or any desired quantities, also apple and other fruit trees and all branches of nursery stock, and are ready to make estimates on your wants in any of the items of General Nursery Stock, but if you want to grow peaches, the best peaches in the world, and have them all the time, then plant the SHIPPERS' LATE RED.

### INSPECTION

All shipments have Certificate of Inspection attached from the State Entomologist, and all stock is healthy and vigorous when it leaves our Nurseries.

UNION ORCHARD & NURSERY CO.,

Martinsville, Ind.

B. F. Mason, Proprietor.



Original tree of the Shippers' Late Red peach 19 years old, and has produced over \$260.00 worth of peaches



**P**EACH growing is in its infancy. There is nothing complex or difficult about it and all that is needed to make peach growing an easy and entire success is to Start Right, and follow a few correct basic principles, and there is far less difficulty or risk in growing peaches than in the average farm crops.

### NECESSARY FEATURES

The main essentials to consider in the planting of peach trees are the location, time and manner of planting, varieties, after culture, pruning, spraying, and marketing. Of these the most vital and of greatest lasting importance is the matter of correct varieties. If proper and best varieties are planted, other good methods can follow with favorable results; if poor and tender or short lived varieties are



Budding Shippers' Late Red peach trees with buds from the bearing trees. Over 200, 000 Shippers' Late Red peach trees in the field. Nothing else in the block. No chance for mixtures.



Block of Shippers' Late Red peach trees, just the right size for planting.

planted, or those not adapted to your climate and soil, no methods of culture and care can ever insure the highest success.

#### LOCATION

The location of the Peach Orchard is of some importance, but not as great as usually attached to it. The peach succeeds best on soil that is free from stagnant water and there is some difference as to the elevation and slopes in regard to frost drainage, but the peach will succeed on almost any soil that will produce a crop of corn or wheat. Of course as in other crops the better the soil the better the peaches. It is not at all compulsory that the soil for peach growing be rich when the trees are planted, as it is no difficult matter to improve the soil in a peach orchard to almost any desired fertility after planting if proper methods of cultivation, cover crops and fertilizing are maintained. Where the writer now has the most productive and valuable peach orchard in Indiana, the soil at the time of planting was so poor both naturally and from neglect, erosion and winter tramping, that it



would not have produced any valuable crop and, in fact, had been abandoned; now the soil is rich and deep and if the trees were removed and planted to corn would produce 100 or more bushels to the acre. Peach trees naturally enrich the soil by shading it and adding their leaves to it, and even on hilly land after the roots are established, erosion is checked. Deep cultivation is more serviceable and effectual, too, in preventing washing than shallow cultivation. Winter cover crops of rye and vetch should always be employed and are of great value in preventing erosion and adding humus and nitrogen to the soil.

#### PLANTING

Early in the Spring or late in the Autumn are either one good seasons for planting the peach. If planted in the spring the pruning, cutting back, should be done at once at time of planting, but if in the Fall the trees should be banked up with soil for the winter and trimmed early in the Spring.



Orchard of Shippers' Late Red peach, 30 months from planting, with raspberries between the peach trees. This orchard averaged \$1.10 per tree at this time.



Peach tree planted for ornament and shade in the front lawn,  
yields peaches too.

### PRUNING

As just stated, the pruning begins as soon as the tree is planted. In orchard culture this consists of cutting back the tree to a short stem. If for lawns, etc., where higher heads may be desired, the tree may be trimmed to a straight stem with the branches cut back to one or two buds. Later pruning consists in keeping the tree symmetrical and open, and as the fruit is borne on wood of the previous year's growth, it follows that the tree should be trimmed annually sufficient to cause sufficient wood growth for the annual crop of peaches. Also the top should be thinned to admit the sunlight and air, in order to properly develop and color the peach.

### SPRAYING

The number of insect and fungus diseases that have been brought into the country makes spraying an essential. The country is flooded with literature on the subject of spraying, and no one need be in

ignorance about this simple measure so necessary in growing fruit. With all spraying operations the main essentials are thoroughness, good material, good spraying machinery and care in the details, and being on time with the material and the work. The spraying in the winter, dormant season (that is, early in the winter or fall, and early in the spring before the buds start), is the most important. A book of several pages is not sufficient to go into all the details about spraying, but this can not be done here, and the thing to know first is that it is **not difficult** or complex, and the way to spray is to get the material and machinery and commence, and all that is needed to know is soon learned. Like the practice of medicine, the right thing to **spray with** depends upon what you are going to **spray for**. The Lime-Sulfur Solution is at the head of the list as to materials for spraying, but it is not all that is required, and if any complications arise in your spraying, our Information Bureau is at your service at all times to supply detailed information for your each individual case, if you will write us on the subject, giving details. No rigid set of rules will apply to all situations or conditions in the matter of spraying.

**For San Jose Scale**—Spray with commercial Lime-Sulfur Solution using one gallon of the material to 11 gallons of water, while the trees are dormant, early in Spring being the best time

**For Leaf Curl and Other Fungus Diseases, Corculio. etc.**—Spray at the time the fruit buds are beginning to open, and slight green of the leaves begin to peep through, with Self Boiled Lime-Sulfur Solution and two pounds of arsenate of lead to 50 gallons of the mixture.

**For Scab, Brownrot, Corculio**—Spray with Self Boiled Lime-Sulfur Solution and two pounds arsenate of lead to 50 gallons, when the husks are mostly off the peach. The solution is for the fungi and the arsenate is for the curculio.

## MARKETING

The first essential in the marketing of peaches is to have a good article to place upon the market. If you wish to sell peaches at a fancy price they must first be fancy on the tree. If they are that they are easily marketed. Next to a first class article for the market comes the necessity of careful grading and packing, and nice, neat packages and good measure. A constant regard for the market and the class of customers you wish to supply must be observed. Personally, as we are not interested in any but fancy peaches, we favor the smaller packages that show the fruit to the best advantage, and for this we have found the Fancy Climax, one-sixth bushel basket, to be the best package we have found for the purpose.





Seven year old Shippers' Late Red orchard yielded \$16.00 per tree.  
All the fruit picked from the ground.

### VARIETIES

As previously stated, the selection of varieties is of the greatest importance in the planting of peach trees. Of these there are several hundred, and certain it is that not many of them possess sufficient of the many desirable attributes to make them worthy of general planting. In the selection of a variety of peaches to plant, the desirable attribute to be possessed by the ones chosen should include: Hardiness of tree and bud; longevity of the tree; vigor of growth; early bearing habit; prolific habits of bearing in the latitude where you will plant; ability to hold large crops without breaking the limbs or trunk of the tree; greatest ability to resist diseases and insect enemies.

The fruit must be large, well colored and of good quality, and the best for general purposes must be of the later sort. The fruit must also be of good keeping qualities and not easily bruised, even when ripe enough to pick and ship. There are very few varieties that include even a few of the above attributes.

## GREAT IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE PEACH

The peach is a tropical fruit in its origin and has, by selection, transposition, cross-hybridizing and cultivation, been developed to one of the most, if not the most valuable of fruits in the temperate zone. The study of the history of this development is certainly one of the most fascinating of all botanical or pomological subjects, but is not a part of this article. The Peach is easy of culture and correspondingly easy of improvement. It is the opinion of the writer that this work will proceed in the near future much more rapidly and practically than in all past generations. It is now our province to consider the merits and history of what we believe to be the greatest and most valuable of all peaches, in practically all of the above desirable features.

### THE SHIPPERS' LATE RED PEACH

In giving a brief description of this remarkable peach we shall not advance any theories, but simply tell some of the **Actual Results** of our own and others experience in the cultivation of this variety.

The original seedling tree of the Shippers' Late Red Peach is now on our grounds at Martinsville, Indiana, and is nineteen years old. It is perfectly sound in every particular and has not a dead twig nor a weak limb about it. A year ago a limb six inches in diameter was cut from the side of this tree, and showed that there is not a sign of decay about the tree, and that it is sound to the center. This tree has now a spread of top of thirty-six feet—that is, it is thirty-six feet across the top from side to side; it is four feet and six inches in circumference around the trunk at a point half way between the ground and where the limbs start out; it is twenty-one feet high in the center of the top and covers an area of ground of something over one thousand square feet. The average growth of the limbs the past season over the tree was something like eighteen inches; the increase in the size of the trunk in circumference was four inches; it is now in better condition to bear a big crop of peaches than it has ever been before. There is no reason to doubt that this tree shall bear peaches in great quantities for twenty years to come. Many horticulturists who have seen it have expressed the opinion that it would continue to bear peaches for forty years or more to come.

The first fruits on this tree were borne in 1897 and the following year, 1898, it was transplanted to where it now stands and in this place has borne fruit every year since 1899 except in 1912, in which year the thermometer here registered 30 degrees below zero. It has withstood the winter of 1905 when the thermometer on February 13th and 14th registered 20 degrees below zero and yet bore a crop that year.





Middle of orchard of Shippers' Late Red peaches. Trees 12 years from planting

#### **MOST HARDY AGAINST FROST.**

In 1910 there was a freeze all over this section of the country on the 23d of April that killed every other variety of peaches in this section at that time and also apples and pears, as well as strawberries and raspberries. The season was early, peaches had bloomed in March, and the peaches were as big as a cherry, but not one of the trees of the Shippers' Late Red on our grounds from three years old up were injured and we had that year the finest crop of the Shippers' Late Red peach that we had ever grown up to that time and there were 12 trees in an old orchard scattered through the orchard as replants that produced that year \$380.00 worth of peaches, sold in the orchard. An orchard of 5,000 trees of 40 varieties of the old sorts, adjoining this orchard did not produce a peach that year.

#### **THE SPRING FROSTS IN 1913.**

This same experience was almost duplicated in the past spring when the greater part of all other varieties of peaches and apples

too were killed by the late frosts and freezing weather, not only in Indiana, but also through Ohio and into Maryland, West Virginia and Virginia. This same year every Shippers' Late Red peach tree on our place was loaded with fruit, our three year old orchard averaged returns of \$3.18 per tree and in one orchard nine trees—replants, eleven years old averaged \$27.00 per tree, the fruit sold in the orchard.

### **LARGE, BEAUTIFUL FREESTONE.**

The fruit of the Shippers' Late Red peach is a freestone, flesh yellow, rich and juicy, free from fiber, the largest size, fourteen to sixteen peaches filling a one-sixth bushel basket. The skin of the peach is yellow, overspread with bright, beautiful red and when you approach the tree the peaches have the appearance of being red all over. The season of ripening is medium late, about two or three weeks later than Elberta and preceding the Salway. For the past eight years we have taken each year about twenty bushels of the Shippers' Late Red peaches to the Indiana State Fair and distributed them to thousands of people and the universal opinion of those who have tasted this peach is that it is of the highest quality.

### **BEST SHIPPER AND KEEPER.**

As a shipper and keeper it has no superior and it will remain on the tree in good condition for three weeks after it is ripe enough to pick safely and we have tested it in this respect many times.

### **BEST COMPARED WITH MANY VARIETIES.**

In the summing up of the many good qualities of the Shippers' Late Red peach it may be in order to say that we have on our grounds at Martinsville, Ind., over three hundred different varieties of peaches. We test everything new that is offered as well as all the well known old sorts. There has never been any other variety here that has made any approach to the Shippers' Late Red, in any point of value from hardness on down the line including size, color, QUALITY-FLAVOR, keeping and shipping qualities, vigor of growth, ability to hold up great crops of peaches without injury to the limbs, and breaking; health and vigor of foliage and circulation giving to the tree qualities resistant of diseases and insect enemies; early bearing and the wonderful longevity of the tree, and its matchless symmetry and beauty in the orchard.

We have never found in our orchard a single peach of the Shippers' Late Red that showed the effects of the brown rot of the peach. There is a marked difference in separate varieties of peaches as their susceptibility to brown rot, some being much worse than others, but

the Shippers' Late Red is the only one on our grounds that we have never seen affected by the brown rot fungus at all.

#### "THE LITTLE TURK" CURCULIO.

In the middle states and notably in Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Missouri, the curculio is one of the worst enemies of the peach. We have never seen a single specimen of the Shippers' Late Red peach in which the egg of the curculio had hatched and a worm developed in the peach. We have for years offered a standing offer of One Dollar to anyone who would show us a Shippers' Late Red peach with a worm in the peach, but no one has yet claimed the dollar.



Shippers' Late Red peach orchard in bloom and before the leaves came out. Shows system of cover crop plowing in rye and vetch in the Spring, April 18



### GREAT OPPORTUNITIES.

As stated in the beginning of this article, Peach Growing is in its infancy. By this the writer means that the future has immeasurably greater things in store for the progressive peach grower than the past has yet observed. It is the writer's opinion that the man who is growing just ordinary peaches will in the next few years have a hard time. People want the BEST. This applies to peaches the same as to railroad accommodations and other public utilities. Small peaches, peaches of common flavor, or insipid like a large part of those with which the people are now being supplied will not fill the bill when they learn of the wonderful beauty, flavor, size and color of the Shippers' Late Red. We have already had this experience in our orchards. Buyers have paid us \$4.00 per bushel for our fine Shippers' Late Red peaches when they could buy what are called just good peaches for one-third of the price. The past season our Shippers' Late Red peaches were sold at an average price of over \$4.00 per bushel when the very best Elberta peaches preceding the Shippers' Late Red about two weeks sold on this same market from our orchards for \$1.25 to \$1.50 per bushel. The extraordinary size, wonderful color and unequalled flavor of the Shippers' Late Red makes the difference. Add to this the fact that the Shippers' Late Red bears an every-year crop while the Elberta in this section, not over one in every three, and the value of the Shippers' Late Red is increased many times over. Why cumber your ground with common peaches when the same space can be occupied with trees of such immensely greater value.

### CAN YOU EXPERIMENT?

As stated in the first of this article We OFFER NO THEORIES. The above outline is a very much abbreviated history of our ACTUAL EXPERIENCE. The average planter can not afford to experiment. The writer has been experimenting with peaches and growing peaches and studying the subject of peaches in its various phases for more than thirty years. These results are at your service when we supply you with trees of the Shippers' Late Red peach.

### COME AND SEE.

To those who are unacquainted with specimens of the Shippers' Late Red peach, who have never seen it bearing on the trees and who have never seen the original tree, or any of the trees we say "Come and See." If all we claim for this peach is not fully verified and more; if it is not as good as we say or better, if the neighbors, who are buying all of these trees they can raise the money to pay for, do not indorse all we say about this peach, in short if we can not prove ALL and MORE than we have claimed for the Shippers' Late



Keep the surface of the peach orchard cultivated. Shallow cultivation.

Red Peach, we will return you all the money you have ever paid us for the trees.

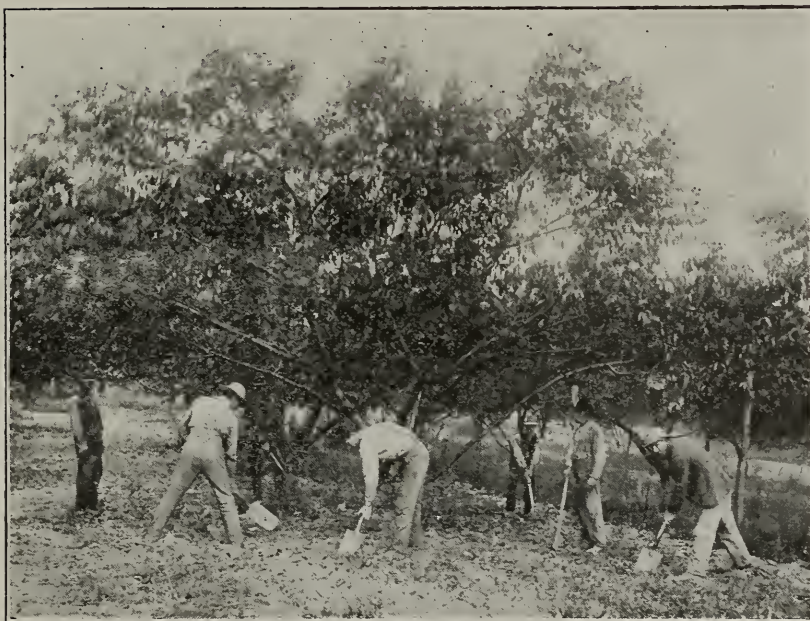
We have taken all the premiums at the Indiana State Fair for the past eight years for this class. There has never been a grower seen the peach or the trees who did not unqualifiedly pronounce them the finest they have ever seen and the trees the most vigorous and remarkable in all respects. The original tree on our grounds is the most remarkable tree that can be found; in size, in vigor, in longevity, and in records of bearing the greatest crops ever produced by a peach tree.

#### UNEQUALED BEARING RECORD.

Here is the record of the crops from the original tree in dollars and cents since 1900. Though this tree bore fine crops of beautiful peaches in 1901, 1902 and 1903, no record was kept of the crop but the following is the record since that time:



1904 .....	\$ 7.00
1905 .....	4.20
1906 .....	14.25
1907 .....	16.80
1908 .....	33.00
1909 .....	25.50
1910 .....	62.00
1911 .....	36 80
1912 .....	temperature 30 degrees below zero.
1913 .....	48.60



If you can't get close enough to the tree with teams a little spading will help. No sod wanted around the peach tree

In 1910 there were twelve trees in one of our orchards from which we sold the fruit for \$380. 00. These trees were replants in an old orchard where other varieties had died and been replaced with Shippers' Late Red, and averaged at that time about ten years of age. One orchard planted in 1906 averaged in 1908 \$1.10 per tree; in 1909 \$2.80 per tree; in 1910 \$3.60 per tree (this the hard frost year when all other varieties in Indiana were killed by the late frosts); in 1911 \$7.00 per tree; in 1913 \$16.00 per tree.

Though the Shippers' Late Red Peach trees which you shipped us last spring were so many weeks on the road on account of the flood conditions, all of the 800 trees are growing. You had packed them so well that they opened up in good condition and were in bloom at the time we opened the boxes.

Romney, W. Va.

BUCKEYE ORCHARD CO.



A load of Shippers' Late Red peaches ready for market. This load brought \$144.00 on the Indianapolis market.

## THE GOVERNOR LIKES THE PEACHES

Dear Mr. Mason: The 12 baskets of peaches ordered for me are in the Hanley home. They are the best we have ever had, not only in **size and beauty**, but in **flavor**. Mrs. Hanley desires me to express her sincere appreciation of these beautiful peaches. Very truly yours,  
Indianapolis, Sept. 11, 1909. J. FRANK HANLEY.

The following is from a letter from Benjamin W. Douglass, for five years State Entomologist of Indiana, and a recognized authority on all fruit subjects:

"Now about the Big Red (the Shippers' Late Red). That basket was on the road seven days. They had been pulled quite ripe evidently, and I think they shipped mighty well. In **flavor they are unexcelled by any peach**. \* \* \* I never tasted a better peach. They are tender, free from fibre, full of juice and at the same time are firm enough to ship well. If you can produce trees of this variety that will carry the qualities of the parent tree you certainly have a wonderful thing. I had an opportunity to compare your peach with the \* \* \*. Your peach excels the other. The **flavor and quality is VERY much better**. Sincerely,  
BENJAMIN W. DOUGLASS."

September 24, 1913.

## THE PERUNA COMPANY

Columbus, O., Oct. 20, 1913.

Mr. B. F. Mason, Martinsville, Ind.

My Dear Sir: The peaches that were shipped to Dr. J. B. Hartman were delivered to me. Dr. J. B. Hartman was a brother of mine, now deceased. He was not a doctor, but a groceryman. My name is S. B. Hartman. I am the Dr. Hartman that manufactures Peruna. We divided the peaches, half to Mr. John Hartman, and the other half we kept.

The peaches were **better than the best peaches I ever tasted**. They were certainly wonderfully good, and both families thank you very much for the peaches.

Wishing everything that is good to fall in your way all through your life, I am,  
Yours very respectfully.

S. B. HARTMAN, M. D.

J. H. Marlin, Bloomington, Ind., writes in the World-Courier:

"We have in our own county the finest peaches grown anywhere in the country. We have a man who is recognized as the best authority on the culture, diseases and propagation of peaches in the state, and who has on his farm in Marion township several new varieties of his





Picnic in the peach orchard. Friends from a distance take some of the "BIG RED" peaches home with them.

own breeding which have already gained a reputation for size, quality and hardiness in many other states. To realize what real peach, peach man, or peach orchard is you must go and see for yourself."

**WILL M. LOCKHART**  
Fancy Fruits and Groceries

Connersville, Ind.

Mr. B. F. Mason, Martinsville, Ind.

Dear Sir: Enclosed I hand you check \$93.00 for the Shippers' Late Red peaches. My customers simply went wild over them. In all my experience of over 25 years in handling the best of fruit I have never had anything in my store that caused as much interest as these wonderful "Big Red" peaches. They are actually supreme over everything of the kind I have ever seen. I want you to ship these peaches to me every year and as long as they last. Yours,

WILL M. LOCKHART.

Farmersburg, Ind., Sept. 24, 1910.

B. F. Mason, Martinsville, Ind.

Kind Friend: Of course I do firmly believe that the Shippers' Late Red peach is the best there is or I would not have placed so large an order for the trees. As to their hardiness I know myself that you had a big crop this year when all the other varieties were killed by the frost, for I helped to pick the crop. As to the flavor it seemed they suited everybody and I am confident that they are as big as any peaches ought to be. As a business investment I would pay a dollar a tree for the Shippers' Late Red peach trees rather than plant ordinary varieties as a gift. Yours truly,

ADRIAN YEAGER.

I have been growing and handling peaches all my life, but the Shippers' Late Red are the first **real peaches** I ever saw. That is why I am planting an orchard of a thousand trees of them.

Morgan County, Ind.

WM. T. SMITH.

I have seen the finest peaches grown in the best fruit belts of Colorado, Washington and other favored sections, but I have never seen any peaches, or peach trees either, that even compare favorably in beauty, flavor and size with the Shippers' Late Red.

Brown County, Ind.

TYNER W. MYERS.

The Shippers' Late Red peaches are so **beautiful**, and the fruit on our three year old trees of this variety this summer were so much better than we had ever thought they would be that I wish you would have given the tree a prettier name.

Rush County, Ind.

CHAS. F. BINFORD.





Can you see the "Big Red" Peaches on this tree? It is the same parent tree shown in the first picture in the booklet, and the picture on the cover page is also a branch of this tree; Just 84 peaches to the bushel. This tree is older than any of these young women, except one. When you write to us about the Shippers' Late Red peaches, your reply will be written by some member of this group.



# Peaches and Peach Growing



Our list of apple trees includes over 70 varieties. The Jonathan  
is one of the best winter apples

**Union Orchard and Nursery Co.**  
B. F. MASON, Proprietor  
MARTINSVILLE, INDIANA



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110 2\_ |a Union Orchard and Nursery Company.  
245 10 |a Peaches and peach growing / |c Union Orchard and Nursery Co. ; B.F. Mason, proprietor.  
260 \_\_ |a Martinsville, Ind. : |b B.F. Mason, |c [c1914]  
300 \_\_ |a 20 p. : |b ill. ; |c 19 cm.  
500 \_\_ |a Cover title.  
650 \_0 |a Nursery stock |z Indiana |z Martinsville |v Catalogs.  
650 \_0 |a Fruit trees |x Seedlings |v Catalogs.  
700 1\_ |a Mason, B. F.  
710 2\_ |a Henry G. Gilbert Nursery and Seed Trade Catalog Collection.  
930 \_\_ |a 20140916 |b 20141003 |c 00000000  
945 \_\_ |a DigiMet  
946 \_\_ |a Other US  
958 \_\_ |a resource |b e |c 2014/09/16 |d o |e creinhardt |f |h recon

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